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From which deduct—	£	£	£
For Premiums on insurances still in in force, clear of the commission, bonuses and re-assurances .			90,689
Remaining . . .			103,323
From this deduct further—			
Total amount of losses which have fallen upon the Company by 2084 insurances, after deducting the salvage received	65,127		
Less the proportion borne by re-assurances . . .	13,567		
		51,560	
Amount of losses experienced in this year not yet settled		3,100	
Reinsurance premiums on £4,479,416		16,337	
Discount, bonuses, and brokerage upon all the in- surances		7,234	
Commission to agents on premiums received from them		10,926	
Salaries, rent, postage, printing, travelling expenses, &c. in Trieste, and agencies		6,118	
Interest for shares		59	
			95,335
Gross surplus . . .			7,988
From which deduct further—			
20 per cent carried to the reserved fund	1,598		
Remuneration to Directors	1,118		
			2,716
Leaving a net surplus of . . .	£	5,272	
Which being divided amongst 1977 shares at present partaking, gives to each £2 13s.			
Reserve fund by last account	£	16,263	
To which are now to be added—			
Interest thereon	650		
Profit on shares given up	80		
Reserve from surplus of the present account . .	1,598		
Total reserve fund 30th June 1850=			18,591
Trieste, 19th December 1850.		Signed, ALEX. DANINOS,	
		General Secretary.	

MISCELLANEA.

Sir William Petty's Essay on the "Growth of the City of London."—The essays in political arithmetic by this writer contain at the same time many wild speculations, and many striking views of general politics, very much in advance of the age in which he wrote. He was amongst the earliest writers who drew any practical attention to the question of population. The "Essay concerning the Multiplication of Mankind," together with another "Essay in Political Arithmetic concerning the Growth of the City of London, with the Measures, Periods, Causes, and Consequences thereof, 1682," appears to be

deficient in the essay on the first part of the subject, but the substance and scope of it is given as contained in a letter from Sir William to a friend, and is quoted here for the purpose of showing the strange mixture of useful and speculative notions which distinguish his works.

“The scope of this essay is concerning people and colonies, and to make way for another essay concerning the growth of the city of London. I desire in the first essay to give the world some light concerning the numbers of people in England, with Wales, and in Ireland; as also of the number of houses and families, wherein they live, and of acres they occupy.

2. How many live upon their lands; how many upon their personal estates and commerce, and how many upon art and labour; how many upon alms; how many upon offices and public employments, and how many as cheats and thieves; how many are impotents, children, and decrepid old men.

3. How many upon the poll taxes in England do pay extraordinary rates and how many at the level.

4. How many men and women are prolific, and how many of each are married or unmarried.

5. What the value of people are in England, and what in Ireland, at a medium, both as members of the church or commonwealth, or as slaves or servants to one another; with a method how to estimate the same in any other country or colony.

6. How to compute the value of land in colonies in comparison to England and Ireland.

7. How 10,000 people in a colony may be, and planted to the best advantage.

8. A conjecture in what number of years England and Ireland may be fully peopled, as also all America; and lastly, the whole habitable earth.

9. What spot of the earth's globe were fittest for a general and universal emporium, whereby all the people thereof may best enjoy one another's labours and commodities.

10. Whether the speedy peopling of the earth would make—

1st. For the good of mankind.

2nd. To fulfil the revealed will of God.

3rd. To what prince or state the same would be most advantageous.

11. An exhortation to all thinking men to solve the Scriptures, and other good histories concerning the number of people in all ages of the world, in the great cities thereof and elsewhere.

12. An appendix concerning the different number of sea-fish and wild fowl at the end of every thousand years since Noah's flood.

13. An hypothesis of the use of those spaces (about 8000 miles through) within the globe of our earth, supposing a shell of 150 miles thick.

14. What may be the meaning of glorified bodies in case the place of the blessed shall be without the convex of the orb of the fixed stars, if that the whole system of the world were made for the use of our earth's men.

The principal points of this discourse—

1. That London doubles in 40 years, and all England in 360 years.

2. That there be anno 1682, about 670,000 souls in London, and about 7,400,000 in all England and Wales, and about 28,000,000 of acres of profitable land.

3. That the periods of doubling the people are found to be in all degrees from between 10 to 1200 years.

4. That the growth of London must stop of itself before the year 1800.

5. A Table helping to understand the Scriptures concerning the number of people mentioned in them.

6. That the world will be fully peopled within the next 2000 years.

7. Twelve ways whereby to try any proposal pretended for the public good.

8. How the city of London may be made (morally speaking) invincible.

9. An help to uniformity in religion.

10. That it is possible to increase mankind by generation four times more than at present."

In a subsequent part Sir W. Petty examines what would be the comparative effect of London being seven times bigger than he then reckoned, and the inhabitants 4,690,000 people, and seven times less and the inhabitants only 96,000. To the objection that many cannot conceive the former possible, he answers—"First, as to practicable, we say that although our said extravagant proposals are both in nature possible, yet it is not obvious to every man to conceive how London, now seven times bigger than in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, should be seven times bigger than now it is, and forty-nine times bigger than anno 1560. To which I say,—1. That the present city of London stands upon less than 2500 acres of ground, wherefore a city seven times as large may stand upon 10,700 acres, which is about equivalent to a circle of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in diameter, and less than 15 miles in circumference. 2. That a circle of ground of 35 miles semidiameter will bear corn, garden stuff, fruits, hay, and timber, for the 4,690,000 inhabitants of the said city and circle, so as nothing of that kind need be brought from above 35 miles distance from the said city; for the number of acres within the said circle, reckoning 2 acres sufficient to furnish bread, drink, and corn, for every head, and 2 acres will furnish hay for every necessary horse; and that the trees which may grow in the hedgerows of the fields within the said circle may furnish timber for 600,000 houses. 3. That all live cattle and great animals can bring themselves to the said city; and that fish can be brought from the Land's End and Berwick as easily as now. 4. Of coals, there is no doubt; and for water 20s. per family (or £600,000 per annum in the whole) will serve this city, especially with the help of the New River. But if by practical be understood that the present state may be suddenly changed into either of the two above mentioned proposals, I think it is not practicable. Wherefore the true question is, unto or towards which of the said two extravagant states it is best to bend the present state by degrees; viz. whether it be best to lessen or enlarge the present city? In order whereunto we inquire (as to the first question) which state is most defensible against foreign powers, saying that if the above mentioned housing, and a border of ground of three quarters of a mile broad, were encompassed with a wall and ditch of 20 miles about (as strong as any in Europe, which would cost but a million, or about a penny in a shilling of the house rent for one year), what foreign prince could be able to bring an army from beyond sea able to beat—1. Our sea forces, and next with horse harassed at sea, to resist all the fresh horse that England could make, and then conquer above a million of men, well united and disciplined, and guarded within such a wall, distant everywhere three quarters of a mile from the housing, to elude the granadoes and great shot of the enemy? 2. As to intestine parties and factions, I suppose that 4,690,000 people united within this great city, could easily govern half the said number scattered without it, and that a few men in arms within the said city and wall could also easily govern the rest unarmed, or armed in such a manner as the sovereign shall think fit. 3. As to uniformity in religion, I conceive that if St. Martin's parish may (as it doth) consist of about 400,000 souls, that this great city also may as well be made but as one parish, with seven times 130 chapels, in which might not only be an uniformity of Common Prayer, but in preaching also; for that a thousand copies of one judiciously and authentically composed sermon, might be every week read in each of the said chapels, without any subsequent repetition of the same, as in the case of homilies; whereas in England (wherein are near 10,000 parishes, in each of which upon Sundays, Holidays, and other extraordinary occasions, there should be about 100 sermons per annum in the whole) it were a miracle, if a million of sermons, composed by so many men, and of so many minds and methods, should produce uniformity upon the discomposed understandings of

about eight millions of hearers. 4. As to the administration of justice :—If in this great city shall dwell the owners of all the lands and other valuable things in England ; if within it shall be all the traders, and all the courts, offices, records, juries, and witnesses ; then it follows that justice may be done with speed and ease. 5. As to the equality and easy levying of taxes. It is too certain that London hath at some times paid nearly half the excise of England ; and that the people pay thrice as much for the hearths in London as those in the country, in proportion to the people of each, and that the charges of collecting these duties have been about a sixth part of the duty itself. Now in this great city, the excise alone, according to the present laws, would not only be double to the whole kingdom, but also more equal. And the duty of hearths of the said city would exceed the present proceeds of the whole kingdom. And as for the customs, we mention them not at present. 6. Whether more would be gained by foreign commerce. The gain which England makes by lead, coals, the freight of shipping, &c., may be the same, for aught I see, in both cases. But the gain which is made by manufactures will be greater, as the manufacture itself is greater and better. For in so vast a city, manufactures will beget one another, and each manufacture will be divided into as many parts as possible, whereby the work of each artisan will be simple and easy ; as for example, in the making of a watch, if one man shall make the wheels, another the spring, another shall engrave the dial-plate, and another shall make the cases, then the watch will be better and cheaper than if the whole work be put upon one man. And we also see that in towns, and in the streets of a great town, where all the inhabitants are almost of one trade, the commodity peculiar to those places is made better and cheaper than elsewhere. Moreover, when all sorts of manufactures are made in one place, there every ship that goeth forth can suddenly have its loading of so many several particulars and species as the port whereunto she is bound can take off. Again, when the several manufactures are made in one place, and shipped off in another, the carriage, postage and travelling charges will enhance the price of such manufacture, and lessen the gain upon foreign commerce. And lastly, when the imported goods are spent in the port itself where they are landed, the carriage of the same into other places will create no surcharge upon such commodity ; all which such particulars tend to the greater gain by foreign commerce. 7. As for arts of delight and ornament. They are best promoted by the greatest number of emulators ; and it is more likely that one ingenious curious man may rather be found out of 4,000,000 than 400 persons. But as for husbandry, viz. tillage and pasturage, I see no reason but the second state (when each family is charged with the culture of about 24 acres) will best promote the same. 8. As for lessening the fatigue of carriage and travelling. The thing speaks itself ; for if all the men of business and all the artisans do live within five miles of each other, and if those who live without the great city do spend only such commodities as grow where they live, then the charge of carriage and travelling could be little. 9. As to the preventing of beggars and thieves. I do not find how the difference of the said two states should make much difference in this particular ; for impotents (which are but one in about six hundred) ought to be maintained by the rest ; 2nd, those who are unable to work, through the evil education of their parents, ought (for aught I know) to be maintained by their nearest kindred, as a just punishment upon them ; 3rd, and those who cannot find work (though able and willing to perform it) by reason of the unequal application of hands to lands, ought to be provided for by the magistrate and landlord till that can be done ; for there need be no beggars in countries where there are many acres of unimproved improvable land to every head, as there are in England. As for thieves, they are for the most part begotten from the same cause ; for it is against nature that any man should venture his life, limb or liberty for a wretched livelihood, whereas moderate labour will produce a better. But of this see Sir Thomas More in

the first part of his Utopia. 10. As to the propagation and improvement of useful learning. The same may be said concerning it as was above said of manufactures and the arts of delight and ornaments; for in the great vast city there can be no so odd a conceit or design whereunto some assistance may not be found, which in the thin scattered way of habitation may not be. 11. As for the increase of people by generation. I see no great difference from either of the two states, for the same may be hindered or promoted in either from the same causes. 12. As to the plague. It is to be remembered that one time with another a plague happeneth in London once in twenty years, or thereabouts; for in the last 100 years, between the years 1582 and 1682, there have been five great plagues, viz. 1592, 1603, 1625, 1636 and 1665. And it is also to be remembered, that the plagues of London do commonly kill one-fifth part of the inhabitants. Now if the whole people of England do double but in 360 years, then the annual increase of the same is but 20,000, and in twenty years 400,000. But if in the city of London there should be 2,000,000 of people (as there will be about sixty years hence), then the plague killing one-fifth of them, viz. 400,000, once in twenty years, will destroy as many in one year as the whole nation can refurnish in twenty; and consequently the people of the nation shall never increase. But if the people of London shall be above 4,000,000 (as in the first of our extravagant suppositions is premised), then the people of the whole nation shall lessen above 20,000 per annum. So as if people be worth £70 per head (as has elsewhere been shown), then the said greatness of the city will be a damage to itself and the whole nation of £1,400,000 per annum, and so *pro rata* for a greater or less number; wherefore to determine which of the two states is best (that is to say, towards which of the two states authority should bend the present state), a just balance ought to be made between the disadvantages from the plague with the advantages accruing from the other particulars above mentioned; unto which balance a more exact account of the people and a better rule for the measure of its growth is necessary than what we have here given, or are yet able to lay down."

Curious Speculation of Sir William Petty on the Number of People at the Resurrection.—It was not very pertinent to a discourse concerning the city of London to thrust in considerations of the time when the whole world will be fully peopled, and how to justify the Scriptures concerning the number of people mentioned in them, and concerning the number of the quick and the dead who may rise at the last day, &c. Nevertheless, since some friends, liking the said digressions and impertinences (perhaps as sauce to a dry discourse), have desired that the same might be explained and made out, I therefore say as followeth:—

1. If the number of acres in the habitable part of the earth be under 50,000,000,000; if 20,000,000,000 of people are more than the said acres will feed (few or no countries being so fully peopled); and for that in six doublings (which will be in 2000 years) the present 320,000,000 will exceed the said 20,000,000,000.

2. That the number of all those who have died since the Flood is the sum of all the products made by multiplying the number of the doubling periods mentioned in the first column of the last table by the number of people respectively affixed to them in the third column of the same table, the same sum being divided by 40 (one dying out of forty per annum out of the whole mass of mankind), which quotient is 12,570,000,000; whereunto may be added for those who died before the Flood enough to make the last-mentioned number 20,000,000,000 as the full number of all who died from the beginning of the world to the year 1682; unto which, if 32,000,000, the number of those who are now alive, be added, the total of the quick and the dead will amount to but one-fifth part of the graves which the surface of Ireland will afford without ever putting two bodies into any one grave, for there be in Ireland

28,000 square English miles, each whereof will afford about 4,000,000 of graves; and consequently above 114,000,000,000 of graves, viz. about five times the number of the quick and the dead which should arise at the last day in case the same had been in the year 1682.

3. Now if there may be place for five times as many graves in Ireland as are sufficient for all that ever died, and if the earth of one grave weigh five times as much as the body interred therein, then a turf less than a foot thick pared off from a fifth part of the surface of Ireland will be equivalent in bulk and weight to all the bodies that ever were buried, and may serve as well for that purpose as the two mountains afore-mentioned in the body of this discourse. From all which it is plain how madly they were mistaken who did so petulantly vilify what the Holy Scriptures have delivered.

Instances of Longevity.—In a work published in 1799 by James Easton, entitled ‘Human Longevity,’ recording the name, age, place of residence and year of the decease of 1712 persons, who attained a century and upwards from A.D. 66 to 1799, comprising a period of 1733 years, with anecdotes of the most remarkable, occur some of such remarkable longevity as to be beyond belief. It is wise in our author, that having, as he says in his preface, refused admittance to every account of the authenticity of which he had the smallest doubt, he has confined the following extraordinary account to a separate place in the preface:—

Numas de Cugna. Maffeus, a Portuguese author, who wrote ‘The History of the Indies,’ which has always been a *model of veracity*, as well as elegant composition, mentions a man of the name of *Numas de Cugna*, a native of Bengal, who died in the year 1566 at the incredible age of 370 years. “He was a person of great simplicity, and quite illiterate, but of so extensive a memory that he was a kind of living chronicle, relating distinctly and exactly what had happened within his knowledge in the compass of his very long life, together with all the circumstances attending it. He had four new sets of teeth, and the colour of his hair and beard had been very frequently changed from black to gray and from gray to black. He asserted that in the course of his life he had 700 wives, some of whom died, and the others he had put away. The first century of his life passed in idolatry, from which he was converted to Mahomedanism, which he continued to profess to his death.” This account is also confirmed by another Portuguese author, Ferdinand Lopez Castegueda, who was Historiographer Royal.

Peter Torton. Died in 1724, aged 185. Of Temeswar in Hungary; a peasant. The remarkable longevity of this man exceeds the age of Isaac five years; of Abraham, ten; falls short of Terah’s, Abraham’s father, twenty; and exceeds that of Nahor, Abraham’s grandfather, thirty-seven.

John Rovin. Died in 1741, age 172; *his wife*, age 164. Of the Bannat of Temeswar in Hungary. Both died in the same year, in the 148th year of their marriage, leaving two sons and two daughters, besides many grandchildren. Their youngest son was 116 years of age.

The Countess of Desmond. Died in 1612, age 145. Of Ireland. She was married in the reign of King Edward IV., was in England the same reign, and danced with the Duke of York, the king’s brother. Upon the ruin of the house of Desmond, she was obliged, at the great age of 140, to travel from Bristol to London to solicit relief from the court, being reduced to poverty. Lord Bacon says she renewed her teeth twice or thrice. This remarkable lady was a subject for the pens of a variety of authors. She retained her vigour to the last.

Easton has given a table of the general summary of the facts collected in his volume, and compared them with Haller’s enumeration of 1111 instances for all ages above 100. A table of mortality, formed from the former and corrected, will be found in Babbage’s ‘Comparative View,’ &c. Mr. Babbage observes,—“About the ages marked by round numbers, &c., as 110, 120 and

130, there appeared to be more deaths than the proper allowance; but the most singular, and which deserves notice from its not being explicable on the same principle, was the large number which occurred at the age of 102, both amongst females and males, but particularly amongst the latter." The following is the summary of original facts, considered authentic, but, it is probable, unintentionally incorrect, from the difficulty of procuring or preserving evidence of age at such advanced periods of life:—

Ages.	Died.	
	Haller's Table.	Easton's Table.
100 to 110.	1000	1310
110 to 120.	60	277
120 to 130.	29	84
130 to 140.	15	26
140 to 150.	6	7
150 to 160.	1	3
160 to 170.		2
170 and upwards		3
	1111	1712

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Assurance Magazine.

London, April 14, 1851.

SIR,—I am desirous, through the medium of your eminently useful Magazine, to give publicity to the existence of a Society recently formed, which bids fair to furnish information of much value in a department of medical knowledge hitherto greatly neglected. This Society has for its object the investigation of Epidemics—a class of diseases which has from time to time proved more fatal to the human race than any other, or perhaps than all the other classes put together. The Epidemiological Society is chiefly, but not exclusively, composed of medical men, laymen being also admitted to unite in a cause which is of equal interest and importance to all mankind.

The methods by which the Society pursues its inquiries are, *first*, by holding periodical meetings, at which papers are read and discussed; *secondly*, by forming committees for investigating particular subjects; *thirdly*, by encouraging and aiding experimental researches in chemistry, meteorology and other sciences, upon such points as bear upon epidemic diseases, and seem likely to throw light upon their origin; *fourthly*, by supplying a library, apparatus and other facilities for those engaged in such inquiries.

The objects of the Society, as above stated, will be perceived to be of great importance as respects life insurance, as well because they tend, by improving our knowledge of the causes of disease, to enable us to avoid them, and thus to increase the probabilities of life, as because they will furnish medical men with surer data on which to estimate its value. It is hoped, therefore, that Insurance Companies, bearing in mind the duty they have to perform to the public as well as to themselves, will not refuse to become contributors either by donation or annual subscription to the funds of so useful an institution.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient Servant,

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D.